

How to Identify a Real Red Coral?



Red Coral, or *Moonga* in Hindi, is a precious gem made from marine organisms found in the deep sea. Unlike other stones that come from the earth, Red Coral is organic and has a special connection to the planet Mars in Vedic astrology. People believe it brings strength, success, and confidence.

Because of its popularity, fake versions made from plastic, glass, or dyed materials are common in the market. Many people unknowingly buy these imitations, which can result in both financial loss and lack of astrological benefits.

This guide will help you understand how to tell a real Red Coral from a fake one, recognize its features, bust some common myths, and learn safe ways to check its authenticity.

Understanding Red Coral – Real vs. Fake

Real Red Coral grows naturally in oceans, especially near Japan, Taiwan, and the Mediterranean. It's not a mineral but a natural structure made from tiny sea creatures. Its red color and connection to astrology make it popular.

However, many sellers sell colored or synthetic coral instead of the real thing. Some even paint white coral red to fool buyers. Knowing the difference helps you avoid fakes and get the full value and benefits.

Key Differences Between Real and Fake Red Coral

1. Natural Formation vs. Artificial Materials

Real Red Coral is made of calcium carbonate from sea life, showing a natural texture when seen under a lens.

Fakes are made of plastic, resin, glass, or bone and colored to look like coral.

2. Color

Genuine Coral has a natural red, orange-red, or pinkish tone with slight color changes.

Fake ones are usually very bright and have an even color that may fade with time.

3. Surface Look

Real Moonga is smooth but may show tiny natural holes.

Fakes look too shiny or polished, especially those made of glass or plastic.

4. Weight and Coolness

Real Coral is heavier and stays cool longer.

Imitations feel lighter and can warm up quickly.

5. What It Looks Like Under a Lens

When magnified, real Coral has natural patterns or grains. Fakes look plain inside without any texture.

Features of a Genuine Red Coral

Real Moonga doesn't allow light through, doesn't shine like glass, and won't bleed color when wiped with a damp cloth. It won't melt or smell like plastic when heated. It sinks in water and feels cool to the touch. Under a lens, you may notice natural pores or patterns. All these help confirm it's real.

Common Myths About Testing Red Coral

Visible Pores

Some believe real Coral must show pores, but many natural stones are smooth too. Pores alone don't prove anything.

Turmeric Test

The idea that turmeric changes color when rubbed on fake Coral is not reliable. It can damage the stone and isn't a sure test.

Burning Test

Some say burning the stone reveals its nature. But real Coral can be harmed by heat, so this is not a safe method.

Milk Test

Some think dipping Coral in milk will change its color, but real Coral won't do that. If color appears, it's likely from artificial dye.

Reliable Ways to Identify Real Red Coral

Magnifying Glass Test

Look closely with a jeweler's lens to spot natural grains or imperfections. Fakes usually look too smooth.

Water Test

Drop the stone in water. Real Coral sinks; fakes might float.

Visual Check

Real Coral has a smooth, soft finish with slight flaws. Fakes are too shiny or too perfect.

Touch Test

A real Coral feels cool against your skin, especially when compared to plastic ones.

Weight Test

Real Coral feels heavier than plastic or glass. You can compare with a known real one to be sure.

Acid Test

If done properly, a drop of vinegar or lemon juice can cause real Coral to bubble slightly. Fakes won't react. But this test should be done by a professional.

Best Way to Confirm a Real Red Coral

Get a Certified Stone

The safest method is buying from a trusted seller who provides a lab certificate. These tests check the stone's makeup and verify it's natural.

Specific Gravity Check

Real Coral has a specific weight range (SG 2.6–2.7). A gem expert can measure this.

UV Light Test

Under UV light, real Coral doesn't glow much. Fakes or dyed corals may glow oddly.

Tips for Buying a Genuine Moonga Stone

- **Buy from trusted sellers** - with proper certification.
- **Check the surface** – real Coral has fine, natural textures.
- **Watch out for bright red stones** – they may be dyed. An acetone wipe test can help check.
- **Avoid faceted corals** – real ones are cut in round or oval shapes.
- **Ask for return options** – it gives you time to verify authenticity.

FAQ

1. Can real Coral change color?

No. If it fades, it is likely dyed.

2. How can I check at home?

Try the acetone wipe, touch test, and use a magnifier, but lab tests are more reliable.

3. What are common fakes?

Dyed plastic, glass, and bone are often used as imitations.

4. How to check if it's dyed?

Wipe with acetone – if the color comes off, it's dyed.

5. Is real Coral smooth or rough?

Real Coral may feel slightly grainy, while fakes feel too smooth or slippery.

Conclusion

Spotting a real Red Coral takes a close look at how it feels, looks, and reacts to basic tests. While there are many myths, only proper checks like magnification, density testing, and certified lab reports can confirm it's real. Always buy from trusted sources and look for certifications to ensure you're getting a genuine Moonga stone worth your investment.